



California Department of Veterans Affairs

News For Veterans

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May 5, 2006

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

MEMORIAL DAY 2006 EVENTS

Please submit your Memorial Day 2006 events to the California Department of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Memorial Day 2006 Events Calendar. This calendar will be posted on the department's website. Please email the what, when, where, who information for your event to newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov. You may also fax your information to 916.653.2611 attention: Jaime Arteaga.

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NEWS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA TO BE DEDICATED ON MAY 25

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Northern California Health Care System will hold a dedication ceremony for the new Veterans Memorial Plaza at the Sacramento VA Medical Center on Thursday, May 25.

The dedication ceremony, to be held on the Thursday before Memorial Day, will feature remarks by Thomas Johnson, Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs and Robert J. McGarvey, Mayor of Rancho Cordova, and will include a flyover with a B-17, B-24 and B-25. The dedication ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. with the flyover scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

The memorial plaza is located in front of the Sacramento VA Medical Center, on what was formerly Mather Air Force Base in the City of Rancho Cordova. "The plaza provides a beautiful and peaceful place where patients and visitors can reflect and honor veterans and loved ones," said Lawrence Sandler, Director, VA Northern California Health Care System that operates the Sacramento VA Medical Center. "We salute the members of this community for their generous donations and the Veterans Memorial Plaza Board of Directors who were responsible for fundraising, coordinating and overseeing development of the plaza."

Its centerpiece, a 15-foot bronze statue of a returning medic being reunited with his young daughter, symbolizes the plaza's theme "Coming Home." The plaza is paved with 1,734 inscribed bricks and includes cantilevered solid walls bearing engraved memorial plaques. In addition, the landscaped plaza includes flagpoles with the United States, POW/MIA, VA and California flags, flanked by flags of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

"We are extremely grateful to all the individuals and organizations whose generous donations have made this vision a reality," said Paul Ayres, Chairman, Veterans Memorial Plaza Project Board of Directors. "We

are thrilled this day has arrived and we are humbled to have been part of this humbling project to create a lasting memorial where we can remember and honor veterans for their service and sacrifice."

Funding for the plaza, which totaled more than \$400,000, was provided by hundreds of private donations from a variety of sources including Veterans Service Organizations, fraternal organizations, private citizens, businesses, as well as significant contributions of labor and materials, including those by Nacht and Lewis Architects and John F. Otto Construction, Inc.

Members of the public are invited to attend this memorable event honoring our nation's veterans. The dedication ceremony will be held at the Sacramento VA Medical Center, 10535 Hospital Way, Mather, CA.

For more information contact Karen Pridmore, public affairs officer at (925) 372-2346.

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Note to editors: This News Release and previous CDVA news releases are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov.